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Wilson's Selfish Policies Cause Nationwide Chaos

If Cutbacks Peril Jobs, Unions Urged To Write NPA

Washington.—Some plants are already finding that metal cutbacks endanger the employment of their work forces before they have received enough defense orders to keep the plant busy.

Such plants and their unions are applying to National Production Authority for relief as hardship cases.

Any union whose members are faced with cutback unemployment should immediately contact management and get them to write to Mr. Manly Fleischmann, administrator, National Production Authority, Room 5100, Main Commerce Building, Washington 25, D. C.

Send a carbon copy to the Office of Labor Requirements, National Production Authority, Washington 25, D. C. This office is manned by Frank Petersen and Carl Linder of the AFL and is located in Room 5128, Commerce Department.

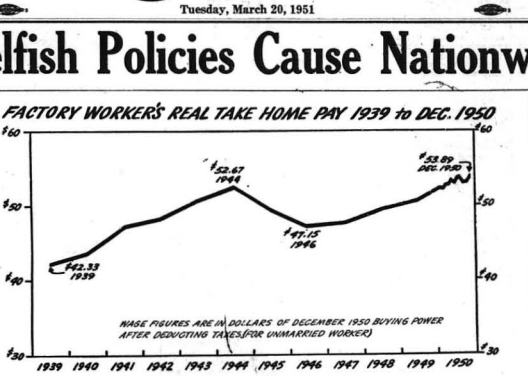
Management's letter should be accompanied by a letter from the union.

Speed Up Awarding Defense Contracts

Washington.— The rate of letting contracts for defense procurement more than doubled during January over the previous 6 months average.

This increase reflects the speed-up in letting contracts since Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall directed the military departments to accelerate procurement and broaden the production base by spreading contracts across industry, to take up the slack caused by the change-over from civilian to military production.

For the October-December quarter, $858 million of all Army, Navy and Air Force contracts went to firms employing less than 500 persons. Most of the defense business which goes to small business does so, not directly, but through subcontracts from other firms.


FACTORY WORKER'S REAL TAKE HOME PAY 1939 to DEC. 1950
$60
$50
$40
$30
$42.33 1939
$52.67 1944
$47.15 1946
$53.89 DEC. 1950
1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950
WAGE FIGURES ARE IN DOLLARS OF DECEMBER 1950 BUYING POWER AFTER DEDUCTING TAXES (FOR UNMARRIED WORKER)

Rising Prices; Higher Taxes Slash U.S. Living Standards

Washington.—American wage earners were $1.17 per week behind the cost of living just prior to the unfair, unjust and unworkable wage freeze imposed by the U. S. government in January.

The AFL Labor's Monthly Survey reported that workers face a reduction in living standards because of rising taxes and price rises; for unless present rigid wage controls are relaxed, our wages cannot keep pace with the rise in living costs, and inequities and substandards cannot be corrected.

Workers share of total national income produced by private industry declined from 62 percent in 1939 to 61 percent in 1950. The share of profits rose from 18 to 21 percent in the same period.

The table below shows how the worker has fallen back in the constant fight to improve his standard of living:

FACTORY WORKER'S REAL PROGRESS: 1939 TO DECEMBER 1950

1.	In 1939: The average wage was	$24.88 per straight time 10-hour week.
2.	Living cost rises have added	19.78 weekly to worker's living costs.
3.	Taxes have increased by	8.42 weekly for unmarried worker.
4.	At end of 1950: Worker needed	53.08 weekly to live as well as in 1939.
5.	Productivity: Normal rise adds	6.89 per week at 2½ per year (11 years).
6.	To keep pace with progress requires	59.97 weekly purchasing power.
7.	Worker's actual wage, end 1950	58.80 per straight time 40-hour week.
8.	DEFICIT	$ 1.17 per week, $60.84 per year.

MID-EAST PARLEY

Teheran, Iran.—The International Labor Organization has called a regional conference for Near and Middle East countries April 9-21 to discuss manpower problems, cooperative organization and social security.

DUBINSKY CUTS A CAKE.—Los Angeles.—AFL Vice President David Dubinsky (left), president International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who began his union career by organizing the workers in his father's bakery in Lodz, Poland, cuts a beautifully-decorated cake baked for him by Los Angeles AFL Bakers Local 453. Local Secretary David Weisman (right) and Lucy R. Lang (center), author of "Tomorrow is Beautiful" and Samuel Gompers associate, look on. Presentation was made during Mr. Dubinsky's recent visit to dedicate new ILGWU Health Center.

AFL Asks American Ministers Guard Against Aiding S. A. Dictatorships

Washington.—The AFL has asked that the American foreign ministers meeting, beginning March 26, guard against taking any steps which "totalitarian governments in Latin America" can use to tighten their dictatorial grip over their democratic-labor opposition.

The request was contained in a memorandum submitted to the U. S. State Department by AFL Latin American Representative Serafino Romualdi.

The governing Executive Committee of the Inter-American Regional Organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions scheduled a meeting for Havana, Cuba, beginning March 26, and is expected to issue a statement on the agenda of the American foreign ministers meeting.

The CIO also asked the U. S. State Department to support an agenda at the ministers meeting favoring broad economic action to raise the living standards of Latin American countries.

The AFL called for a reaffirmation of the basic concepts of the Bogota resolution which repudiates not only international communism but all forms of governments that deny the fundamental rights of man.

It urged reestablishment of the Committee for Political Defense of the Continent to combat Soviet infiltration of the Western Hemisphere and to coordinate compliance on the part of American governments of the various provisions of the inter-American pacts for the preservation and strengthening of democracy.

SUPPORT UNITED NATIONS.—Chicago.—AFL officials took lead in the American Association for the United Nations in urging support for UN technical assistance programs and understanding for peoples of Africa and Asia. L. to r., AFL Vice President William L. McFetridge, president Building Service Employes; Walter Collins, assistant to Mr. McFetridge; Clark Eichelberger, director American Association for United Nations; H. Emmet McHugh, senior vice commander Catholic War Veterans; Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organization; W. G. Flynn, grand lodge representative AFL International Association of Machinists.

Rank and Filers Bring Dismal Reports to Protest Meeting

Washington.—The home front defense mobilization is in chaos.

The conflicting, rigid, short-sighted and selfish policies of Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson and his big business aides are tangling the wheels of the nation's economic and industrial machine everywhere and so badly in some places that it is at a standstill.

That's the gist of reports brought to the 2-day meeting of state and regional officials of AFL, CIO, Machinist and Railroad Brotherhood organizations.

Representatives of AFL organizations met March 20 with President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and other top officials to hear reports on how Mr. Wilson's setup has excluded and discriminated against the wage earner, farmer, consumer and small business man.

The AFL group was scheduled to meet March 21 with representatives of the other organizations making up the United Labor Policy Committee.

The committee withdrew its representatives from the Wage Stabilization Board on Feb. 15 to protest the unfair, unworkable and unjust wage formula and setup. All representatives were withdrawn from Mr. Wilson's entire organization 2 weeks later to dramatize for the American people the great wrongs being done them by Mr. Wilson.

Since those steps were taken, the situation has worsened rapidly.

Prices have galloped completely out of sight. Workers have suffered a tremendous cut in their standard of living.

Wages are frozen. Even employers, who have agreed to increases, are stymied by the one-man wage stabilization orders issued by Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston.

AFL representatives from across the nation assembled as Congress, getting ready for a long Easter vacation, dallied over the extension of even the loose federal rent controls due to expire March 31.

Members of Congress said that the country wouldn't stand for tighter price and rent controls, which it is rumored President Truman may ask sometime.

The only new tax proposals by the administration were to soak the workers with almost the whole burden of defense financing. Manufacturers and the daily press yapped for sales taxes, another way of doing the same thing.

Philly Labor Unites For Defense Fight

Philadelphia. — Representatives of 400,000 members of the AFL, CIO and railroad brotherhoods have formed the Philadelphia United Labor Policy Committee to act "in all matters pertaining to prices, wages, manpower and defense problems arising out of the national mobilization program."

The committee criticized the many failures of the program under Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson, pledged support to the United Labor Policy Committee's withdrawal from the Wilson setup at the national level, and demanded that it be consulted on the appointment of a regional stabilization board chairman.

Cochairmen elected are Albert Sabin, president Philadelphia AFL Central Labor Union; Henry F. Shipherd, president Philadelphia CIO Industrial Union Council, and Judson Swan representing the railroad brotherhoods.

NEED WORKERS

Washington.— The nation's railroads are in immediate need of skilled trades journeymen, as a result of the present national emergency.

The Railroad Retirement Board announced that its employment offices in major cities hold railroad orders for over 2,700 such workers, and the number is growing steadily.

Meany Lauds Europe's Progress, Reveals China Underground Tie

Chicago.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany praised Europe's recovery in the past 5 years, her will to resist communist Russia's aggression, and revealed that the AFL is aiding the underground democratic forces opposing the communists on the Chinese mainland.

In a comprehensive, detailed summary of AFL anti-communist policies, Mr. Meany listed the many specific steps taken to raise the living standards of workers everywhere. The occasion was a speech before the Catholic Labor Alliance.

"Samuel Gompers and Vladimir Lenin had diametrically opposite ideas on everything in life," Mr. Meany said. "But they both had this in common: they both realized the decisive role of labor in the international crisis which really began with World War I. Lenin knew he could not win the fight for totalitarian communism without mastery of labor.

"Gompers knew the fight for democracy could never be definitely won unless labor was its most aggressive and consistent champion in every country."

He listed seven essential principles guiding the AFL approach and strategy to carrying out the Gompers' philosophy. He described how the AFL has carried the fight for democracy and against communism to France, Italy, Germany, Israel, India, Finland, to countries behind the iron curtain, Latin America, India, Japan and the Philippines.

Mr. Meany said that the AFL has a bureau in Formosa "where we maintain extensive contacts with the growing resistance movement on the Chinese mainland."

"On the Chinese mainland we are aiding the underground democratic forces. These forces are linked with the Free China Labor League on Formosa which we are assisting."

He summarized the situation in Europe:

"In western Europe trade union morale is constantly improving. The combination of Marshall Plan aid and American trade union help are slowly but surely bringing improvement in the economic status of the wage earners of this part of the world.

"Recent developments in France and Italy where the communists have suffered severe setbacks are most encouraging. Every country of Europe under the Marshall Plan has exceeded its 1938 production levels. Even in Italy, 1950 production rose 16 percent over 1938.

"Labor in France and Italy have not shared equitably in the fruits of this increased production, although they are much better off than they were 5 years ago. In this connection, we must not jump to the conclusion that recovery has come to western Europe solely because of American aid.

"While no one can belittle the generous contributions of our country, we must remember that in the last analysis it was the people of western Europe who themselves had to have the will to work, to rebuild and to revive their faith in their own future. America could only provide the absolutely necessary stimulus and sparkplug.

"Essentially, European hard work in Italy, in Britain, in Holland, in Germany and elsewhere did the trick of recovery.

"The same can be said about Europe's growing readiness to reject communist infiltration and to resist Russian invasion. America provided the tonic for European economic, military and morale recovery. It was an absolutely necessary tonic, but it was only a tonic.

"Europe provided the brawn, in large measure the brain, and the spirit to be revived. Here is the great value of Europe in the present world crisis."

AFL 7 Points In Red Fight

Chicago.—The AFL is guided by 7 essential features and principles in its entire approach and strategy in its worldwide struggle against communism.

Speaking before the Catholic Labor Alliance, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany listed them:

(1) There is nothing—and there can be nothing—in common between communism or any other form of totalitarianism and democracy. Hence, there can be no partnership or united front of even the most limited sort between communism and our democratic way of life.

(2) Without democracy there can be no free trade unionism. Without free trade unionism there can be no genuine democracy. Hence, the free trade unions must be in the forefront of the struggle against every expression or manifestation of opposition to democracy or free labor, against every phase and practice of the Communist and every other type of totalitarianism.

(3) Since labor is the first target of communism and is the first one to be enslaved by Russia's Communist quislings, labor should be the first one in the land to reject, resist and defeat all Communist infiltration and machinations. To us, in the American Federation of Labor, Communist infiltration at home is the prerequisite for —and a phase of—Soviet invasion from abroad.

(4) Communism today is not a progressive but a reactionary anti-labor force. Its aim is not to eliminate but to exploit the shortcomings and evils in our society—solely with a view of softening up our country so as to make it an easier target for assault, invasion and conquest by the warlords in the Kremlin. Today, the Communist movement is nothing else but an agency of a hostile foreign power—an auxiliary arm of the gigantic Soviet military machine whose primary purpose is the conquest and the destruction of American democracy and the enslavement of the American people.

(5) In its fight against communism, in its positive fight for democracy, the American Federation of Labor conducts its activities as an independent force. We are totally independent of any government control or influence. At times we may agree and cooperate. At times we may disagree. But at no time can we serve or act as an agency or dependent on our government. It is this entirely independent role of the AFL which has lent great potency, prestige and effectiveness to our domestic and foreign activities against the Communist scourge. We are labor. We fight as labor. We fight for labor. We fight against the termites in the house of labor.

(6) It is the cardinal rule of the AFL that, to be successful in the struggle against communism, democratic labor must always have the initiative, be continuously on the offensive and carry the fight to the Communists—right into their own camp. In our struggle with the Communist elements which have tried to gain control of movements in various ways during the last 30 years, we have always taken the offensive. We have not allowed them to choose the battleground, nor have we allowed them to decide when the battle shall take place.

(7) Finally, it is the firm conviction of the American Federation of Labor that the most effective way of fighting communism is through the voluntary methods, primarily through voluntary action by labor itself, through labor serving as the most vigilant guardian of our democracy, the most vigorous proponent of sound economic and social reforms, and the most dynamic spokesman of a democratic foreign policy for our nation. If we take away the soil which breeds communism, there will be fewer totalitarian germs to plague us. If we do not give communism any cause, we will not have to spend any energy against its poisonous and pernicious effect.

EXPAND CRITICAL LIST

Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin announced that he had added to the list of critical occupations those of aircraft operations specialist, airplane pilot operating multi-engine commercial planes, aircraft assembly mechanic, draftsman, design, and oil well servicing technician.

Philippine Labor Seeks Minimum Pay

Manila, Philippine Islands.—Free democratic labor unions are engaged in all-out battle against powerful financial interests in the Philippines attempting to sabotage minimum wage legislation now before the Philippine Congress.

Although promised U. S. aid to the struggling young republic is contingent on passage of a satisfactory minimum wage law, wealthy plantation owners and sugar central operators have been working behind the scenes to prevent its enactment.

The latter are strongly reluctant to boost the wages of greatly underpaid workers—despite soaring profits and prices.

So far moneyed interests have succeeded in bottling up minimum wage legislation in the House Labor Committee.

Last year, at the request of the Philippine President, the U. S. sent a special mission (the Bell Mission) to the Philippines to consider its economic difficulties and recommend measures for correcting them. The mission, after careful study, proposed extensive changes to meet the financial crisis in the Philippines—and simultaneously urged that the U. S. assist the young Republic by providing some financial aid.

The U. S. agreed to provide $250 million in loans and grants, on the condition the Philippine government would do certain things first. One of the "musts" was passage of an "adequate" minimum wage bill.

Since then, the senate has passed a satisfactory bill, providing:

1. Four pesos daily for nonagricultural employes.

2. Two pesos, 50 centavos daily for agricultural workers, with not less than 2 pesos in cash after allowance for meals and lodgings.

The senate bill, translated into U. S. terms at the current official rate of exchange of 2 pesos for a dollar, would provide a $2 minimum for nonagricultural workers and a $1.25 minimum for agricultural workers.

The senate bill generally meets the requirements of the Bell report, although the floor established would not provide even a minimum budget for an urban industrial family, according to a recent study. The cost of living in the Philippines is one of the highest in the world.

The house bill, nonetheless, slashes the senate-okayed minimum to 4 pesos for workers in Manila and environs, 3 for nonagricultural workers outside of Manila and 2 pesos for agricultural workers.

AIDS PHILIPPINES

Washington.—The AFL is laying plans for establishment of a strong bureau in Manila, Philippine Islands.

"The situation in the Philippines is tragic," AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said in revealing the plans.

"Our Asiatic representative, Richard Deverall, is now in Manila where he is conferring on ways and means of aiding the young and rising bona fide trade unionists of the Philippines repel and defeat the unholy combination of Communist (Harry Bridges) waterfront racketeers, corrupt politicians and labor-hating bosses."

Green and Bunche Cited For Services

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The 46th annual luncheon of the League for Industrial Democracy will be the occasion of a citation of AFL President William Green for his "deep devotion to the cause of freedom and human well-being" which has won for him "the love and esteem of the liberty-loving peoples of every land."

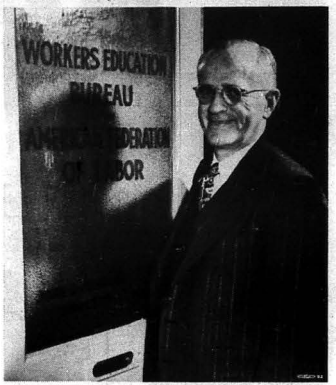
The luncheon to be held March 31 will be addressed by President Green and Ralph J. Bunche, United Nations leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who is to be given a citation as well. Chairman of the meeting will be Nathaniel M. Minkoff, secretary of the Dress Joint Board, ILGWU.

The citation given President Green recalls his early posts in the United Mine Workers where "you dedicated your fine energies and abilities to the abolition of the semi-feudalistic conditions that then existed in the mining districts of the country."

"Over a quarter of a century ago you were called to the high office of president of the American Federation of Labor. Under your leadership, and with the loyal cooperation of its officers and rank and file, the AFL has multiplied its membership, improved immeasurably the working conditions of American labor, advanced the cause of democracy in industry and obtained the passage of significant social legislation. Your federation has fought the good fight against intolerance, bigotry and race and religious prejudice, and has played an ever-increasing part in the political life of the nation."

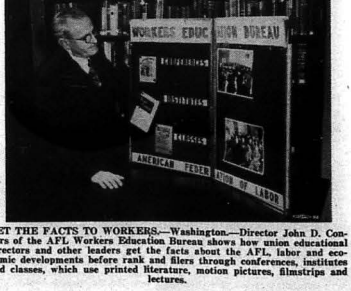
A special section of the citation deals with the AFL battle against totalitarianism "of every kind."

THE AFL—Workers Education Bureau



NEW HEADQUARTERS.—Washington.—John D. Connors, director AFL Education Department, holds open door of new headquarters at 801 Victor Building, 724 Ninth St. N.W., after moving from New York where department was established 30 years ago as Workers Education Bureau. "We are ready to welcome our friends, old and new, to our new quarters about three blocks from the AFL," Mr. Connors says.

INFORMATION FOR WORKERS.—Washington.—Miss Bess K. Roberts, assistant to director AFL Workers Education Bureau, lifts copy of bureau's monthly "News Letter" from rack of informative bulletins on AFL, labor, economic and current events—all available to workers. Miss Roberts edits "News Letter" which describes union educational programs and contains book and film reviews.



GET THE FACTS TO WORKERS.—Washington.—Director John D. Connors of the AFL Workers Education Bureau shows how union educational directors and other leaders get the facts about the AFL, labor and economic developments before rank and filers through conferences, institutes and classes, which use printed literature, motion pictures, filmstrips and lectures.

Editors can use mats of these photos singly or as complete photo story of this AFL department.

DISCUSS WORKERS EDUCATION METHODS.—Washington.—Staff of the AFL Workers Education Bureau confers regularly on making more effective use of its facilities to keep AFL members alert to labor and economic developments. L. to r., Director John D. Connors, Miss Bess K. Roberts, assistant; Miss Sally Parker, film specialist, and Mrs. William Calvin.

FILMS AVAILABLE TO UNIONS.—Washington.—Miss Sally Parker, film specialist AFL Workers Education Bureau, examines one of the Bureau films available for showing at local union meetings. WEB library includes filmstrips: "Samuel Gompers—Man of Labor," "Fifth Union Industries Show," and films "With These Hands," story of the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and many others.

EDUCATIONAL AIDS PROMPTLY SENT.—Washington.—Mrs. William Calvin, AFL Workers Education Bureau, opens the daily flood of requests for literature, films and other educational aids received from AFL unions throughout the country. Address your queries to Workers Education Bureau, American Federation of Labor, 724 Ninth St. N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

Industry Slaps Muddling Heads Of Big Business Mobilization

Washington.—Big Busines formally kicked in the teeth the Big Business executives muddling with the nation's Defense Mobilization.

The National Association of Manufacturers, U. S. Chamber of Commerce and Joint Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce turned down a plan to reorganize the Wage Stabilization Board.

Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston drafted the plan along lines recommended by the United Labor Policy Committee. When his Big Business friends turned him down, Mr. Johnston said he would "let the thing rest for the present."

He approved only 3 cents of an 11 cents an hour increase negotiated by the AFL Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and CIO United Packinghouse Workers with the major meat packers. He said the other 8 cents violates the 10 percent ceiling which industry and so-called public members established Feb. 15. He said permission to pay that 8 cents would have to be approved by a Wage Stabilization Board—which Mr. Johnston hasn't got. Both unions are free to strike after March 26.

President Truman created a National Advisory Board on Mobilization Policy on March 15 but the United Labor Policy Committee was in the dark on the purposes or objectives. Mr. Truman appointed Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson as chairman. It is supposed to have four labor members.

Industry objected to a wage board which would consider nonmonetary or noneconomic issues in disputes certified to it by the President. It also opposed any modification of the unjust, unfair and unworkable Wage Regulation 6 which forced labor members of the Wage Board to resign on Feb. 15.

Meanwhile the United Labor Policy Committee mobilized regional state and city officials of the AFL, CIO, Machinists and railroad brotherhoods to map a program of state and city action to arouse the mass of American consumers to the "great wrongs" done them by Mr. Wilson, Mr. Johnston and their discriminatory administration of a national program in favor of Big Business exclusively.

In Baton Rouge, La., AFL President William Green said that the United Labor Policy Committee is "deeply and profoundly shocked by the spectacle that has confronted us in the highest levels of the defense program."

"One small narrow group of our economy has—through default of all of our elected representatives—managed to secure detailed control of the mobilization effort," he said at a Town Hall meeting.

"The representatives of large corporate enterprises have established themselves firmly in the saddle, through a sort of interlocking directorate super-imposed upon our governmental institutions.

"Defense policies which place the great bulk of the plain citizenry of this country in a vicious trap between rising prices, rising taxes, and frozen wages, while the profits of the few are permitted to multiply unchecked, can only prove self-defeating."

In other developments:

1. The Senate passed an extension of federal rent controls until June 30 but the House balked temporarily. Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods warned that unless Congress acts rent ceilings will expire March 31 for 1,374 communities including Detroit, Cleveland, Seattle, Memphis and other large cities.

2. Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle issued an order permitting restaurants, boarding houses and other eating places to adjust menu prices April 1 to reflect increases in food costs—one more in the long series of "price control orders" which hiked the cost of living.

3. Machinists President Al J. Hayes was scheduled to wind up the United Labor Policy Committee's series of radio and television broadcasts on the failures of the Defense Mobilization set-up. Mr. Hayes was due for a March 18 session on Peoples Platform (TV-CBS 5:30 p.m. EST) and March 20 on Town Hall of the Air (ABC, 9 p.m., EST).

4. The Big Business Defense Mobilization set-up granted its Big Business clients—231 of them—certificates of necessity which carries the right to write off building costs in five years instead of 20. The ordinary taxpayer will foot the bill for 74 percent of $1.1 billion worth of new structures for private corporations.

This Could Work Here

New York.—Edward R. Murrow, Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, discussing the United Labor Policy Committee's withdrawal from the bogged down Big Business Defense Mobilization set-up said:

"Labor's complaint, as I understand it, is not against controls; not against labor making its fair share of sacrifices; but rather that organized labor is not adequately represented in the planning and issuance of the decrees.

"During the last war, Britain's economy was much more tightly controlled and carefully managed than ours, because their situation was more desperate and they were nearer the fire.

"It was then that Ernest Bevin, Secretary of Labor in a Coalition Government, made a contribution to victory fully as great as that of Mr. Churchill. For the men and women who worked with their hands, respected and had confidence in that veteran trade union leader—gave up voluntarily their hard-won rights and privileges in the common cause, confident that those rights would be returned when victory had been achieved.

"Many of those who spent the night in air-raid shelters, got up and went to work in the morning with the grease still under their fingernails, knew little enough of government policy or ground strategy. But they were constantly conscious that their own representatives were sitting in the cabinet, participating in decisions, protecting their interests, seeing to it that they got their fair share of what little the traffic would bear.

"That full partnership with labor worked in Britain in tougher times than these. Maybe it would work here."

MEMO TO ERIC

Akron, O.—President H. A. Bradley of the AFL International Chemical Workers Union charges that "wage controls are now a product of stupidity and greed."

Mr. Bradley's comments are contained in the current issue of his union publication. His statement appeared just as Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston, who ordered the controls put into effect, was reported to have waggled his finger at various government officials accusing THEM of failing to back up his program.

"If these gentlemen in authority insist on imposing unworkable and unfair restrictions upon the wage earner, it will be they who must shoulder the responsibility for any failure in our industrial plans or our stabilization effort, both of which are so vital at the present time. Stupidity in these times is a luxury and not a necessity."

RENT ATTACK

Denver, Colo.—Runaway rents for tenants in three middle western states are in prospect as real estate lobbies put the pressure on state legislatures in Kansas, Iowa and Colorado.

Despite warnings from even the conservative press, bills are being pushed forward which would completely decontrol all rent ceilings in those three states. This would be just another inflationary blow at the purses of the three-quarters of a million renters in those states—250,000 in Kansas, 325,000 in Iowa and 175,000 in Colorado.

Colorado would be the hardest hit with its reactivated military camps and booming defense plants bringing tens of thousands of soldiers and artisans into the state—only to be gouged for unjustifiably high rents.

Letter to 'Times' Supports Labor

New York.—Alfred Baker Lewis in a letter to the editor of the New York Times took issue with that newspaper's editorial criticizing the United Labor Policy Committee "and the similar vigorous attack on labor's stand made by Arthur Krock."

Mr. Lewis is president of the Union Casualty Co., New York.

"Labor's attitude concerning the wage stabilization program is based on the lack of equality between the inadequate, unfair and decidedly flexible 'freezing' of prices at their highest point and the lack of any flexibility in the wage-freezing program," Mr. Lewis wrote.

He justified each one of the complaints of the ULPC against the failures of the Defense Mobilization program under Charles E. Wilson.

"The United Labor Policy Committee's fundamental contention with Mr. Wilson is that labor wants to be treated in our defense mobilization effort not as a very subordinate underling but as a full partner," Mr. Lewis said. "Surely this is an important part of the distinction between free labor and forced labor as it exists under totalitarian dictatorships, and labor's position is again correct."

AFL President William Green wrote to Mr. Lewis commending him.

CAMBIANO RE-ELECTED

San Francisco.—Joseph F. Cambiano of San Mateo was re-elected unanimously to his 24th term as president of the California State Council of Carpenters and Harry C. Grady, vice president California State AFL, was re-elected unanimously for a third term as secretary-treasurer.

President Roosevelt Set Formula For Resolving Labor Board Dispute

Washington. — President Roosevelt ended Big Business' blockading tactics in getting on with the war in 1941 by resolving the dispute over a War Labor Board with a single brief communication. This is 1951 but Big Business is using the same gag to prevent establishment of a fair wage stabilization board.

On Dec. 23, 1941, President Roosevelt wrote to the members of his national Labor-Management-Conference:

Gentlemen of the conference:

Moderator (W. H.) Davis and Senator (Elbert) Thomas have reported to me the results of your deliberations. They have given me each proposition which you have discussed. I am happy to accept your general points of agreement as follows:

1. There shall be no strikes or lockouts.

2. All disputes shall be settled by peaceful means.

3. The President shall set up a proper War Labor Board to handle these disputes.

I accept without reservation your covenants that there shall be no strikes or lockouts and all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means. I shall proceed at once to act on your third point.

Government must act in general. The three points agreed upon cover of necessity all disputes that may arise between labor and management.

The particular disputes must be left to the consideration of those who can study the particular differences and who are thereby prepared by knowledge to pass judgment in the particular case. I have full faith that no group of our national life will take undue advantage while we are faced by common enemies.

I congratulate you—I thank you, and our people will join me in appreciation of your great contribution.

Your achievement is a response to common desire of all men of good will that strikes and lockouts cease and that disputes be settled by peaceful means.

May I now wish you all a merry Christmas.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

AFL Assists Italian Workers Rebelling Against Communists

Washington. — Workers who have just rebelled against the Communist Party of Italy serving as a brazen and brutal arm of the imperialist Russian foreign office are in touch with AFL representatives abroad and at home.

This has just been revealed by AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

Speaking recently to the Chicago Catholic Labor Alliance, Mr. Meany gave this detailed view of AFL activities in Europe and Asia:

"We have consistently and with increasing frequency been giving strength to the foreign policy of our country. It is our firm conviction that our government will be able to develop and pursue a consistent and effective democratic foreign policy only to the extent that the people themselves participate in influencing and moulding it.

"In this connection I want to stress that it was the American Federation of Labor who came forward with the idea and initiated the machinery for rallying world labor to the Marshall Plan and to the defeat of the communist attempts in Europe to sabotage it. It was our leadership in rallying the forces of free trade unionism behind the Marshall Plan which dealt the decisive blow to the communist attempts to prevent European reconstruction.

"Nor has our support of the North Atlantic Alliance been academic. We have had to go into the ports of many of Europe to help rally the democratic workers on the waterfront so as to prevent the communists from sabotaging the shipment of American arms to the North Atlantic Alliance. Had it not been for the powerful democratic labor in Europe—fully assisted by the AFL—the North Atlantic Alliance would never have been a paper proposition and American arms would not have been shipped to our allies.

"Only a few weeks ago did the workers of Europe inflict a crushing defeat on French and, thereby, on world communism. In this victory the AFL played a most constructive role. Working closely with that stalwart fighter for free trade unionism in the ports of Europe (Per? Pisani), our European representative, Irving Brown, participated in cleansing the port of Marseilles of communist control. Today the democratic trade union organization has 35 out of the 50 members of the Port Council.

"Today Atlantic arms aid can be delivered at the port of Marseilles without fear of communist sabotage or paralysis. Here was one of the most decisive and significant victories scored by European free labor over its communist enemy. It came just in time and served as the great stimulus to the defeat of the demonstrations which the communists had lavishly yet vainly sought to organize against General Eisenhower.

"In France the communists are still the dominant factor in the trade unions. That, in some degree, explains the painful situation of France's political and economic situation of today. But primarily due to our effort there has been established an increasingly important democratic trade union center called the Force Ouvriere which, though but a minority, has together with the various independent and Christian trade union organizations been able to prevent the communists from destroying the economic life of France and thereby opening up the gates of chaos and communist revolution in that pivotal country.

"In Italy also the communists are the dominant factor in the trade unions, which in no small measure explains the plight of Italy today. But in Italy as in France there exists a non-functioning democratic trade union center known as the Confederazione Italiana Sindicati Lavoratori. (CISL). Though still a minority, this trade union center is already sufficiently strong to be in large measure able to the communists to inflict paralyzing general strikes on the Italian people.

"In Finland, which is virtually behind the iron curtain, we are working closely with the Finnish Federation of Labor.

"In Israel we are working with the democratic trade union group which has been primarily instrumental in having the Histadrut—the Israeli Federation of Labor—part company with the communist-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions.

In India we have maintained a very active bureau. This bureau has served not only as an information center about America, not only as a center to counteract the vicious communist propaganda against our country and its institutions, but also as a guide in developing amongst the Indian trade union movement practical knowledge of how to engage in collective bargaining, settle grievances peacefully and build strong unions.

"In Germany and Berlin the AFL has been particularly active not only in the distribution of food but in the dissemination of American ideas and ideals. We have published considerable quantities of literature and aided generously the reestablishment of a powerful free trade union movement in Germany. It is this movement that is today the bulwark of developing democracy in Germany and is the strongest opponent of the Russian and communist machinations in the city of Berlin within the iron curtain.

"Much noise has been made about the struggle waged and won recently by the German trade unions for the rights of so-called codetermination. I want to point out 2 features which have been deliberately or otherwise overlooked by economic "experts" hostile to labor.

"In winning this fight for the rights of labor in the steel and coal economies of Germany, the German trade unions have weakened the hold of the Ruhr magnates and cartels on the economic life of Germany. These were the same Ruhr rulers who had brought Hitler into power and built his aggressive war machine.

"By winning these rights, German labor has further divorced itself from the fetish of government ownership, from that pernicious notion that government ownership of the economic life of a nation spells freedom and democracy for its people.

"In Japan despite countless difficulties, we have managed to render real service to the rising free trade union movement in Japan. Our literature and our cooperation have proven invaluable to the young and inexperienced Japanese trade unionists in their valiant and tireless attempts to rid their ranks of all communist cells and agents who have been very heavily financed by Russia."

CRUIKSHANK DISCUSSES ECA.—Paris.—Nelson Cruikshank, AFL director Social Insurance Activities on leave to serve as chief of the labor division of the Marshall Plan Paris headquarters, discusses his program with ECA labor personnel. Seated is Milton Katz, successor to W. Averell Harriman, as roving ambassador for the Marshall Plan.

AFL Unions Revise Demand Upward

Washington. — The AFL Government Employes Council has decided to revise upward its demand for a 17 percent cost-of-living salary increase for postal and federal employes.

The decision was made after a survey showed that everything points to a continued rise in the cost of living. The 17 percent figure was agreed upon in late 1950 under conditions that existed at that time. Since then the government has failed utterly to control the cost of living.

The AFL unions are vigorously supporting present legislation to grant a 17 percent increase on the first $5,000 for federal and postal employes.

Support the Red Cross Fund Drive generously!

Canada Organizes Joint Labor Group

Ottawa, Canada.—A joint standing committee to deal with problems of manpower, production, price control and defense mobilization in general has been formed by the 4 major Canadian trade union organizations.

Over a million workers are represented by the 4 organizations involved —the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Canadian Congress of Labor, the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labor and the Dominion Joint Legislative Committee of the Railway Transportation Brotherhoods. The TLC and the CCL include the AFL and CIO, respectively.

Creation of the committee follows some months the opening of the joint labor federation campaign in Canada history. Toward the end of 1950, organized labor in Canada issued a joint announcement launching a nation-wide campaign to urge imposition of price controls and retention of rent controls.

One out of every 3 Canadian workers is a union member.

Not Satisfied With Hogging Profits, Business Provokes Industrial Strife

Washington. — Not satisfied with reaping record profits under the Big Business Defense Mobilization program, Big Business is now provoking strife by refusing to join in a workable disputes plan for the national emergency period.

Big Business rejected the plan submitted by Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston. The United Labor Policy Committee, which withdrew from affair and submitted the Wage Stabilization Board on Feb. 15, commented on the industry action:

Industry has now vetoed the Economic Stabilization Director's proposal for establishing a tri-partite Wage Stabilization and Disputes Board to help maintain uninterrupted production in vital defense plants during the national emergency.

The position taken publicly by the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce on this key issue provides conclusive proof that big business is more interested in carrying on a war against labor than in furthering the national defense program.

Boiled down to its essentials, the position of the spokesmen for big business is:

1. That they are unwilling to participate in a reconstituted Wage Stabilization and Disputes Board that will consider disputes certified to it by the President of the United States as vitally affecting the defense program unless the jurisdiction of the board is limited to wage questions.

2. That the board must adhere to a narrow and inflexible wage policy even though they admit such a policy would result in strikes affecting defense production.

With regard to jurisdiction of the board, a somewhat parallel situation arose at the labor-management conference called shortly after Pearl Harbor. At that conference, the representatives of Big Business adamantly held out for limitation of the jurisdiction to be accorded to the War Labor Board over labor-management disputes. The final decision was that "all" types of disputes must be considered by the board because the first objective was to prevent interruption of the war production program due to strikes or lockouts.

Time marches on, but business policy stands still.

In the present deadlock, the clear-cut precedent of World War 2 should be given serious consideration by the government.

The position of the big business group on wage policy is equally shocking. In their statement they arrogantly insist that the wage policy to be determined by a reconstituted board must be so rigid and inflexible that the board's answer "in a large majority of cases will and should be a decisive 'No'."

They are even unwilling to accede to the provisions of the Defense Production Act that the way be left open for the correction of hardships and inequities.

Recognizing that the rigid policy they proposed will inevitably result in "a number of strikes," the representatives of big business presume to tell the government that it should deal with such strikes through the injunction procedures of the Taft-Hartley Act, thus substituting compulsion for fair play and justice.

The only conclusion we can draw is that the leaders of big business see in the defense program a golden opportunity to cash in.

They want to keep the present rigid wage freeze in effect against the nation's workers, while business continues to reap record profits out of a phony price control system.

They want to deny labor any effective participation in the defense program for the protection of consumer interests.

They are determined to exploit the special advantages accorded to them by the Taft-Hartley Act, under which the government is forced to aide with business by seeking injunctions to break strikes.

Instead of responding to the national emergency with a sincere effort to cooperate with labor for full and uninterrupted defense production through the formulation of a fair wage stabilization program and the establishment of workable disputes machinery, big business is provoking strife.

Greeks Donate Blood To Red Cross Bank

Washington. — Four members of the Greek Technical Assistance Team visiting the United States under sponsorship of the Economic Cooperation Administration gave blood for the United Nations forces fighting in Korea at the District of Columbia Chapter, American Red Cross.

They were Christos A. Jecchinis, team captain; Evangelos Chronis, 36, of Athens, and president of the Union of Technical Personnel and the Greek Labor Confederation; John Litsas and Miss Maria Kalyvinou, councilor, Cigarette Workers Union of Athens.

Sen. Douglas Backs Union of Teachers

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent AFL News Service

Chicago.—Our American system of education is our strongest bulwark against totalitarianism, U. S. Sen. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois told the AFL Chicago Teachers Union 11th annual conference.

Senator Douglas, an economics professor at the University of Chicago before his entrance into public life, is a member of the American Federation of Teachers. He addressed nearly 1,000 persons, nearly all teachers, on "How Legislation Will Affect Education in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century."

The senator declared that teachers are better able to influence the public welfare if they are organized into a union. He said our system of free public schools, for which the American Federation of Labor always has fought, is an enormous factor in national progress.

"It gives children of poor families a chance to demonstrate their ability and to attain their full development," he said. "In contrast, the failure of Europeans to give their people an equality of education is a great factor in the class struggle and social turmoil that exists there.

"The American system of free public schools, plus the private & parochial schools which exist beside them, are the greatest bulwark against the totalitarianism that engulfs other lands."

During the last half-century, Senator Douglas said, the average educational level of the people has developed from the fifth grade to at least 2 years of high school. The number of students attending college in the United States is 6 times that of England.

Introducing the senator, John M. Fewkes, president of the Chicago Teachers Union, referred to recent newspaper mentions of "Douglas for President" boom.

"Illinois has given the nation one great President and can offer it a country another in Senator Douglas," said Fewkes. "We hope the people will accept and elect him."

Douglas replied he didn't want to be President himself—a senator are sufficient challenge to him.

The senator was roundly cheered at another AFL meeting when he spoke at a dinner of the Carpenters' District Council honoring Stanley L. Johnson, new secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

"You are blessed with great leadership," Senator Douglas told the 1,200 guests. "In the past 40 years organized labor has trebled real wages. Organized labor protects the working man."

RAMSPECK NAMED

Washington. — Robert Ramspeck, former representative from Georgia, is the new chairman of the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

He was designated by President Truman after the Senate had confirmed his appointment to the commission which was caused by the retirement of Chairman Harry B. Mitchell.

Chairman Ramspeck specialized in civil service affairs while a member of the House.

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